

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 14, 2004

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-181)

TO: Dorrie Welch
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Actions: Swamp Creek Hardwood and Wetland Restoration Project

Project No: 1992-026-01 – Swamp Creek Hardwood

Watershed Management Categories, Techniques, or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches, 1.10 Structural Bank Protection Using Engineered Structures, 1.13 Culvert Removal/Replacement to Improve Fish Passage, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement – Fishways.

Locations: Swamp Creek, T02N, T03N, R45E, Sec. 30, 31 and T02N, R45E, Sec. 6,7,18, and 19, Willamette Meridian, Wallowa County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), Wallowa Resources, and U.S. Forest Service's Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF)

Description of Proposed Actions: BPA is proposing to fund Wallowa and the WWNF for constructing various activities intended to improve instream habitat and riparian areas and restore habitat values for steelhead and other wildlife, re-establish about 600 acres of wetlands, improve water quality, stabilize the streambank, increase diversity of riparian vegetation, improve floodplain functionality, decrease stream temperatures, improve fish passage, provide educational opportunities, and raise the meadow water table. Table 1 outlines the proposed work activities that are planned between April 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004. Monitoring (Table 1) is planned to be completed by the Wallowa Resources, the WWNF, the Swamp Creek Land Steward, or by a contractor.

Analysis: As a cooperator and partner, the WWNF assisted in conducting various environmental review, and produced their own Decision Memo that finds the project to be categorically excluded from an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. The review authorizes their District Ranger to proceed with the project. We believe the work proposed is consistent and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). We have identified the specific qualifying categories and techniques of the EIS above.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are the threatened Spaldings catchfly, Mid-Columbia River steelhead, bull trout,

shortnose sucker, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, Canada lynx; endangered gray wolf¹; northern bald eagle and the delisted peregrine falcon². Biological evaluations conducted by the WWNF's zone biologists and botanist revealed that the proposed actions and associated activities will have no measurable adverse effect on any listed fauna, flora, or critical habitat because either: none of the listed species are in the areas to be affected, there is no known or potential habitat for these species within the project area, or because none of the planned actions are judged to have an effect on the species.

Requirements associated with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act were addressed through a series of cultural resource reviews and surveys that were conducted by the WWNF. The procedures followed a 1995 Programmatic Agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, and U.S. Forest Service Region 6 of March 1995. Under this Programmatic Agreement, consultation of the individual actions with the SHPO was not required, provided that documentation for each ground disturbing activity was appropriately recorded. As Federal lead agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service documented the activities proposed in the Swamp Creek project as follows, that includes the survey date, assigned code, name of activity, and U.S. Forest Service archaeologist/surveyor:

- FY01 9/18/2001 (No number assigned) Swamp Creek Riparian Fence by Cheryl Bradford;
- FY02 8/13/2002 (SHPO #16-02-02-010) Swamp-Davis Creek Fencing Project (project #6, Action #5)
by Steve Lucas;
- FY03 5/1/2003 (SHPO #16-02-03-012) Swamp Creek Riparian Fencing 2003 by Jacqueline Beidl;
- FY03 5/20/2003 (SHPO #16-02-03-016) Swamp Creek Water Gaps and Ponds by Jacqueline Beidl;
- FY03 6/3/2003 (SHPO #16-02-03-012 and SHPO #16-02-03-016) Monitoring Notes for Swamp Creek
Riparian Fencing an Swamp Creek Water Gaps and Pond by Jacqueline Beidl;
- FY03 4/25/2003 (SHPO #16-02-03-011) Swamp Creek Riparian Planting by Jacqueline Beidl;
- FY04 7/28/2004 (SHPO #16-02-03-016 addendum) Swamp Creek Water Gaps, Ponds and Spring
Development Addendum by Skip Keith Miller.

The survey reports identified presence of various finds at the various locations of proposed activities including basalt flakes, lithic scatter, and historic properties found to be eligible and non eligible for the National Register. The reports recommend avoidance where possible, rerouting, keeping vehicles away from the finds, using already disturbed areas where possible, monitoring, and conducting additional surveys if more work is planned. Provided these recommendations are followed and built into the current project designs, the proposed actions will have no effect on any properties listed on or eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. In the unlikely event that unexpected archaeological material is discovered as part of project activities, a WWNF archaeologist and BPA archaeologist should immediately be notified and work halted until the finds can be inspected and assessed. The cultural resource reports are filed in KEC.

¹ Extirpated from Oregon; no designated recovery zone in Oregon; historic habitat only; not impacted.

² Delisted from the Federally-threatened list August 1999.

Public scoping for this project has included issuance of a notice about the project as part of the 2002 Watershed Improvement Projects published in the Wallowa Mountains Office Schedule of Proposed Actions in the spring of 2002. Scoping also included telephone calls and holding site visits. Within the WWNF, an interdisciplinary team evaluated resource issues and environmental implications associated with the proposed project.

The start of construction is authorized upon receipt of all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. The project is consistent with the National Forest Management Act. This Supplement Analysis finds: 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Carl Keller 9-15-04

Carl J. Keller

Fish and Wildlife Biologist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ ThomasMcKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 9-15-04

cc: (w/Table):

Mr. Nils D. Christoffersen, Willowa Resources, P.O. Box 274, Enterprise, OR 97828

Mr. Ken Bronec, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Wallowa Valley Ranger District, 88401

Hwy. 82, Enterprise, OR 97828

Table 1. Proposed Work for the Swamp Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project

Project Name	Swamp Creek Hardwood & Wetland Restoration Project
Objective(s)	Improve physical, chemical and biological processes in Swamp Creek
Intent	Improve water quality, instream habitat and riparian areas for steelhead and other wildlife; increase streambank stability; increase diversity of riparian vegetation; improve floodplain functionality; improve fish and wildlife habitat; decrease stream temperatures; improve fish passage; provide educational opportunities; and raise the meadow water table
Planned Tasks/ Actions Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Construct 5.0 miles of riparian fence to protect water from livestock use; ? Plant and cage 1,000 deciduous shrubs and trees; Cage 50 native shrubs; ? Propagate seeds to plant 25 acres of deciduous vegetation; ? Install harden 5 water gaps; Inventory upland water sources; Develop 5 springs; ? Inventory heritage resources; ? Inventory 12 in-stream structures; ? Modify 12 instream structures; institute a monitoring plan; and ? Develop a stewardship program
Work Period	April 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004
Drainage/ Location	Lower Joseph Creek Watershed/ Wallowa County, U.S. Forest Service land, Oregon
Creek Name/ Location	Swamp Creek/ T2N R45E and T3N R45E
USFS Decision Memo	2003 Swamp Creek Restoration Decision Memo from USFS
Design Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? employ a monitoring plan for all tasks, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> install 2 piezometers to measure water table install 3 temperature recorders conduct annual steelhead redd counts resurvey channel sections conduct vegetation survival inventories establish photo point documentation prepare reports to include in RMWP guidelines and photo documentation work will occur during dry conditions work within RHCA to be done by hand proposed water gaps to be reviewed by an archaeologist and the project leader to ensure no effect on cultural resource properties ensure consistency with NHPS re-seed disturbed areas to native grass to prevent spread of noxious weeds